

# Guere language

**Guéré** (Gere), also called **Wè** (Wee), is a Kru language spoken by over 300,000 people in the Dix-Huit Montagnes and Moyen-Cavally regions of Ivory Coast.

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## Phonology

The phonology of Guere (here the Zagna dialect of Central Guere / Southern Wè)<sup>[3]</sup> is briefly sketched out below.

## Consonants

The consonant phonemes are as follows:

	<u>Bilabial</u>	<u>Labiodental</u>	<u>Labial-velar</u>	<u>Alveolar</u>	<u>Palatal</u>	<u>Velar</u>	<u>Labialized velar</u>
<u>Stops</u>	p   b		kp   gb	t   d	c   ɟ	k   g	kʷ   gʷ
<u>Implosives</u>	ɓ						
<u>Nasals</u>	m			n	ɲ		
<u>Fricatives</u>		f   v		s   z			
<u>Lateral approximant</u>				l			
<u>Approximants</u>					j		w

Allophones of some of these phonemes include:

Guéré	
Wè	
Native to	Ivory Coast
Region	Dix-Huit Montagnes, Moyen-Cavally
Native speakers	320,000 (1998–1999) <sup>[1]</sup>
Language family	Niger–Congo <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Atlantic–Congo<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Kru<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Western Kru<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Wee<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Guere–Krahn<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li><b>Guéré</b></li></ul></li></ul></li></ul></li></ul></li></ul></li></ul>
Language codes	
ISO 639-3	Either: gxx – Central Gere (Southern Wee) wec – Neyo (Western Wee)
Glottolog	guer1240 ( <span>http://glottolog.org/resource/language/id/guer1240</span> ) <sup>[2]</sup>

- [k̠m̠] is an allophone of /k̠p̠/ before nasal vowels
- [ŋ̠m̠] is an allophone of /g̠b̠/ before nasal vowels
- [ŋ̠ʷ] is an allophone of /w/ before nasal vowels
- [d] is an allophone of /l/ in word-initial position
- [r] is an allophone of /l/ after a coronal consonant (alveolar or palatal)

In addition, while the nasal consonants /m, n/ and contrast with /b/ and /l/ before oral vowels, and are thus separate phonemes, before nasal vowels only the nasal consonants occur. /b/ and /l/ do not occur before nasal vowels, suggesting that historically a phonemic merger between these sounds and the nasals /m, n/ may have occurred in this position.

## Vowels

Like many West African languages, Guere makes use of a contrast between vowels with advanced tongue root and those with retracted tongue root. In addition, nasal vowels contrast phonemically with oral vowels.

	<u>Oral</u>		<u>Nasal</u>	
	<u>Front</u>	<u>Back</u>	<u>Front</u>	<u>Back</u>
<u>Close (ATR)</u>	i	u	ĩ	ũ
<u>Close (RTR)</u>	ɪ	ʊ	ḭ̃	ṵ̃
<u>Mid (ATR)</u>	e	o		õ
<u>Mid (RTR)</u>	ɛ	ɔ	ẽ	õ̰
<u>Open (RTR)</u>		a		ã

## Tones

Guere is a tonal language and contrasts ten tones:

Tone	IPA	Example	Gloss
Low	˩	ɡ̠ba˩	"to scatter"
Mid	˥	ɡ̠ba˥	"to destroy"
High	˦	mɛ˦	"to die"
Top	˧	ji˧	"full"
Low–high rising	˨˨˥	ɡ̠bla˨˨˥	"hat"
Low–top rising	˨˨˧	k̠plɔ̰˨˨˧	"banana"
Mid–high rising	˥˥˦	blo˥˥˦	"wall"
High–top rising	˦˦˧	de˦˦˧	"younger brother"
High–low falling	˨˨˩˥	ɡ̠ba˨˨˩˥a˨˨˩˥	"goat"
Mid–low falling	˨˨˩˦	sre˨˨˩˦	"penis"

## See also

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- Wobe AKA Northern Wè

## References

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1. Central Gere (Southern Wee) (<https://www.ethnologue.com/18/language/gxx/>) at *Ethnologue* (18th ed., 2015)  
Neyo (Western Wee) (<https://www.ethnologue.com/18/language/wec/>) at *Ethnologue* (18th ed., 2015)
2. Hammarström, Harald; Forkel, Robert; Haspelmath, Martin, eds. (2017). "Guere" (<http://glottolog.org/resource/languoid/id/guer1240>). *Glottolog 3.0*. Jena, Germany: Max Planck Institute for the Science of Human History.
3. Paradis, Carole (1983). *Description phonologique du guéré*. Abidjan: Institut de Linguistique Appliquée, Université d'Abidjan.

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